

Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended to recite each blade is pivotal in a plane including the centerline of the rigid, integral support frame. Such amendment is deemed to clarify the structural cooperation of the blade with the frame and thus overcome the assertion that such claim is vague and indefinite.

The support of each of the elements recited in the claims as amended is clearly disclosed in the specification and the drawings. The rigid, integral support frame having an opening therein corresponds to the frame designated by reference numeral 100 in the drawings and the longitudinal centerline passing therethrough is designated by the reference letters RA in the drawings. The three blades circumferentially spaced relative to the centerline, each having an elongated section, a second end section and an intermediate section pivotally connected to the frame wherein each blade is pivotal and a plane including such centerline correspond to the blades designated by reference numerals 110, 120, 130 and 140 in the drawings. The means operatively interconnecting each blade and the support frame for yieldingly biasing the elongated section of each blade into engagement with the elongated sections of the other blades corresponds to springs 170, 171, 172 and 173 shown in the drawings. The means for restraining the pivotal movement of each of the blades at selected angles corresponds to members 200, 201, 202 and 203 disclosed in the drawings. Each of the elements recited in the claims not only is illustrated in the drawings but described in detail in the specification.

With respect to newly submitted claim 32, support for the recitation “a frame having an opening through a centerline thereof” is found in reference numeral 100 of the drawings and page 1, lines 11 through 14 of the specification, the recitation “a set of elongated blades circumferentially spaced relative to said centerline, each having a first end section, a second end section and an intermediate section pivotally connected to said frame for pivotal movement in a

plane including said centerline” is found in reference numerals 110, 120, 130 and 140 of the drawings and page 1, lines 15 through 19 and page 6, lines 1 through 10 of the specification, the recitation “means for yieldably biasing said first end sections together into engagement, permitting said first end sections to be inserted into said cavity” is found in reference numerals 170, 171, 172 and 173 shown in the drawings and page 7, lines 3 through 12 of the specification, and the recitation “means for releasably restricting the pivotal movements of said blades” is found in reference numerals 200, 201, 202 and 203 of the drawings and page 8, lines 17, 21 and page 8, lines 1 through 4 of the specification.

The assertion to the effect that the patentable novelty of new claim 32 in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited has not been pointed out, is not understood. On pages 11 and 12 of the response to the previous Patent Office communication, Applicant commented on the failure of the Karlin et al and Charters Patents to disclose or teach the invention as recited in the previously submitted claims, and on page 12 of such response, Applicant commented to the effect that newly submitted claim 32 goes further in specifically correlating the components of the instruments with their corresponding functions. Accordingly, it is submitted that newly submitted claims 32 has been distinguished over the principal references of record. As stated in the response, either a single or plurality of individual means may be employed to bias the insertable sections of the blades together to facilitate the insertion of the sections into the body cavity, and either a single means or a plurality of individual means may be employed to releasably restrict the pivotal movements of the blades to hold them apart for performing the intended procedure, and then be released or disengaged to cause the first end sections to be pivoted together into engagement under the action of the biasing means, thus permitting such insertable end sections to be easily removed from the cavity. Such structure clearly is neither

disclosed nor taught in the Karlin et al and Charters Patents nor any of the other references of record.

The indication of allowability of claims 9, 11 through 13, 18 through 20 and 30 is acknowledged and appreciated. In view of the previous amendments and submitted arguments intended to overcome the rejection of certain claims as being vague and indefinite and/or anticipated, and the foregoing comments, it respectfully is requested that the remaining rejection of the claims be withdrawn, such claims be allowed and further that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter N. Lalos", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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